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a clamping mechanism positioned so as to clamp said thermoelectric [thermal electric] devices between said sample block and said heatsink;

a heater positioned around \underline{a} [the] perimeter of said sample block; [and]

a pin having a first end and a second end, said first end in close contact with said sample block and said second end in close contact with said heatsink so as to provide a thermal path between said sample block and said heatsink; and

means for connecting the assembly to a power source for said heater and a computing apparatus for controlling said temperature excursions of said assembly and said heater.

Please add new claims 43 and 44 as follows:

43. The assembly of claim 33, wherein said pin is positioned to reduce thermal gradients across said sample block.

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44. The assembly of claim 33, wherein said pin is positioned at the center of the sample block.

REMARKS

In accordance with a telephone conference with Examiner Backer, by amendment herein, a potential difficulty with claim